

## Claims

- 1 1. A method for managing a plurality of console devices over a network,  
2 comprising the steps of:  
3       providing a plurality of console devices interconnected over a hybrid  
4 network;  
5       checking an availability of one of the console devices;  
6       requesting a shared session from a current user of the checked console  
7 device;  
8       starting the shared session; and  
9       accessing the console device on a peer to peer basis over the hybrid  
10 network during the shared session.
- 1 2. The method of claim 1, wherein the hardwired network is a hardwired serial  
2 port network.
- 1 3. The method of claim 1, wherein the shared session is started from a remote  
2 location.
- 1 4. The method of claim 1, wherein the shared session is started at via an  
2 addressable connection .

1 5. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of performing system  
2 console access of the accessed consoled device.

1 6. The method of claim 1, wherein the console devices are computer systems.

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1 7. A method for managing a plurality of console devices in a network, comprising  
2 the steps of:  
3 providing a plurality of console devices interconnected over a hardwired  
4 serial port network;  
5 checking an availability of one of the console devices prior to attempting  
6 to access the console device;  
7 requesting a shared session from a current user of the console device;  
8 starting a shared session via an addressable connection;  
9 accessing the console device on a peer to peer basis over the hardwired  
10 serial port network; and  
11 performing system console access of the console device.

1 8. The method of claim 7, wherein the console devices are computer systems.

1 9. A method for managing a plurality of console devices in a network, comprising  
2 the steps of:  
3 providing a plurality of console devices interconnected over a hybrid serial  
4 port network;  
5 a current user of one of the console devices inviting a new user to join a  
6 shared session of the console device;  
7 starting the shared session of the console device; and  
8 accessing the console device on a peer to peer basis over the hybrid serial  
9 port network.

1 10. The method of claim 9, wherein the shared session is started via an  
2 addressable connection.

1 11. The method of claim 9, further comprising the step of performing system  
2 console access of the console device.

1 12. A system for managing a console device in a network, comprising:  
 2 a system server;  
 3 a terminal concentrator server connected to the system server;  
 4 a multiplexor connected to the terminal concentrator server;  
 5 a console device connected to the multiplexor; and  
 6 a program product stored on the system server for allowing users to open a  
 7 shared session and access the console device.

1 13. The system of claim 12, wherein the terminal concentrator server, the  
 2 multiplexor and the device are interconnected over a hardwired serial port  
 3 network.

1 14. The system of claim 12, wherein the terminal concentrator server and the  
 2 system server are interconnected over a hardwired serial port network.

1 15. The system of claim 12, wherein the terminal concentrator server and the  
 2 system server are addressably connected .

1 16. The system of claim 12, wherein the console device is a computer system.

1 17. The system of claim 12, wherein the shared session is opened by the users via  
 2 an addressable connection.

1 18. The system of claim 12, wherein the console device is accessed by the users  
2 on a peer to peer basis.

1 19. The system of claim 12, wherein the program product, when executed,  
2 comprises:

3 program code configured to access one of a plurality of console devices on  
4 a peer to peer basis over a hardwired serial port network;

5 program code configured to invite a user to join a shared session of one of  
6 a plurality of console devices interconnected over a hardwired serial port network;

7 program code configured to request a shared session from a current user of  
8 one of a plurality of console devices interconnected over a hardwired serial port  
9 network;

10 program code configured to delegate control of a console device during a  
11 shared session; and

12 program code configured to regain delegated control of a console device.

1 20. A system for managing a plurality of console devices in a network,  
2 comprising:  
3 a system server;  
4 a plurality of terminal concentrator servers connected to the system server;  
5 a separate multiplexor connected to each of the terminal concentrator  
6 servers;  
7 at least one console device hardwired to each multiplexor; and  
8 a program product stored on the system server for allowing users to open a  
9 shared session of a particular console device, and to access the particular console  
10 device on a peer to peer basis.

1 21. The system of claim 20, wherein the shared sessions are opened via an  
2 addressable connection.

1 22. The system of claim 20, wherein the console devices are computer systems.

1 23. The system of claim 20, wherein the system server, the terminal concentrator  
2 servers, the multiplexors, and the console devices are interconnected over the  
3 hardwired serial port network.

1 24. The system of claim 20, wherein the system server and the terminal  
2 concentrator servers are addressably connected.

1 25. The system of claim 20, wherein the program product, when executed,  
2 comprises:  
3 program code configured to access one of a plurality of console devices on  
4 a peer to peer basis over a hardwired serial port network;  
5 program code configured to invite users to join a shared session of one of a  
6 plurality of console devices interconnected over a hardwired serial port network;  
7 program code configured to request a shared session from a current user of  
8 one of a plurality of console devices interconnected over a hardwired serial port  
9 network;  
10 program code configured to delegate control of a console device during a  
11 shared session; and  
12 program code configured to regain delegated control of a console device.



1 26. A program product stored on a recordable medium for managing a plurality of  
2 console devices interconnected over a hardwired serial port network, which when  
3 executed, comprises:  
4       program code configured to access one of a plurality of console devices on  
5 a peer to peer basis;  
6       program code configured to invite a user to join a shared session of one of  
7 the console devices;  
8       program code configured to request a shared session from a current user of  
9 one of the console devices;  
10       program code configured to delegate control of one of the console devices  
11 during a shared session; and  
12       program code configured to regain delegated control of the console device.